

Department of State

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 88862 262125Z
ACTION ARA-15

9497 **AK329** BUENOS 88862 262125Z

INFO OCT-01 10-14 ADS-00 HA-05 AID-05 SY-05 SYE-00
MCT-02 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-06 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00
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O R 261959Z OCT 79
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2934
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS

BUENOS AIRES 8862

E.O. 12865: GDS 10/25/85 (FRIEDMAN, TOWNSEND B.) OR-P
TAGS: SHUM AR
SUBJ: (U) HUMAN RIGHTS SUMMARY - OCTOBER 18-25

REF: BUENOS AIRES 8658

1. SENTENCES, RELEASES, APPEARANCES -----

MARIA BLANCO DE GONZALES WHO DISAPPEARED ALONG WITH HER THREE CHILDREN DURING THE VISIT OF THE IAHRC BUT FINALLY WAS DECLARED TO BE DETAINED BY THE GOA CHARGED WITH MONTONERO ACTIVITY, WAS GIVEN A PRISON SENTENCE OF 18 YEARS BY A MILITARY TRIBUNAL, IT WAS ANNOUNCED OCTOBER 23. ANOTHER WOMAN, SARA ROLDAN DE LOPEZ, WAS GIVEN A SENTENCE OF SEVEN YEARS FOR TERRORIST ACTIVITIES. GONZALES, WHO REPORTEDLY WAS A MEMBER OF A MONTONERO PROPAGANDA TEAM, RETURNED TO ARGENTINA WITH HER HUSBAND AND CHILDREN EARLIER THIS YEAR. AN INTERESTING ASPECT OF HER CASE IS THAT IN ANSWERING A HABEAS CORPUS PETITION IN HER BEHALF, THE GOA STATED THAT SHE WAS BEING HELD "IN CAMPO DE MAYO" BUT NOT AT WHICH OF THE FACILITIES THERE. HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS WERE INTRIGUED THAT THE GOA NOT ONLY ADMITTED THAT IT HOLDS PEOPLE ON SUBVERSIVE CHARGES IN CAMPO DE MAYO BUT SUGGESTED, BY IMPLICATION, THAT THERE IS MORE THAN ONE DETENTION FACILITY THERE. MR. GONZALES, BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN TAKEN AT THE SAME TIME, HAS NOT BEEN SURFACED AND IS BELIEVED DEAD.

*Summary
execution*

2. WE ALSO LEARNED THAT AT LEAST ONE OF THE 25 PEOPLE WHO WERE RELEASED FROM LA PLATA PRISON IN JUNE 1979, ONLY TO BE RE-ARRESTED IN RESISTENCIA, HAS NOW RECEIVED A PRISON SENTENCE FROM A MILITARY COURT THERE. ANTONIO EDUARDO ZOARTE WAS GIVEN A SENTENCE OF TEN YEARS FOR "LINKS WITH SUBVERSION," NOT FURTHER ELABORATED IN SO FAR AS WE CAN DISCOVER.

3. WE HAVE HEARD SEVERAL REPORTS OF DISAPPEARED INDIVIDUALS--UP TO PERHAPS TEN--WHO HAVE RECENTLY RE-APPEARED AFTER LONG ABSENCE. ONLY ONE REPORT IS CONFIRMED--A MAN WHO DISAPPEARED IN DECEMBER 1978, WHOSE WIFE CAME TO THE EMBASSY TO TELL US THAT HE HAD RE-APPEARED LAST MONTH. SHE WAS MOST RELUCTANT TO GO INTO ANY DETAILS, HER HUSBAND APPARENTLY HAVING BEEN EXPLICITLY TOLD TO "FORGET EVERYTHING," AND THREATENED WITH REPRISALS SHOULD HE NOT HEED THIS ADVICE. THIS WOMAN DID STATE THAT ALL THE INDIVIDUALS BEING HELD WITH HER HUSBAND--BY IMPLICATION A SMALL NUMBER--WERE ALSO RELEASED. THESE REPORTED REAPPEARANCES HAVE STIRRED A GREAT DEAL OF INTEREST IN ARGENTINE HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS.

Reappearances

4. THOUGH THE GOA HAS MADE NO ANNOUNCEMENTS, WE ALSO

UNDERSTAND THAT IT HAS CONTINUED TO RELEASE INDIVIDUALS BEING HELD UNDER PEN. WE HAVE ONE OPTION CASE WHO RECEIVED COMPLETE FREEDOM, WHICH CONFIRMS THIS PROCESS. THE NUMBERS BEING RELEASED ARE UNCERTAIN. WE ASKED A HIGH RANKING GOA OFFICIAL CONNECTED WITH THE PROGRAM FOR AN EXPLANATION OF ITS SILENCE ABOUT THESE RELEASES, ESPECIALLY SINCE PAST PRACTICE HAD BEEN TO MAKE PERIODIC ANNOUNCEMENTS. HE SAID THAT THE GOA WAS SIMPLY WAITING TO GATHER A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF RELEASES IN ORDER TO AVOID TRICKLING THE INFORMATION OUT. WHILE THIS IS PLAUSIBLE, IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE THAT THE GOA FEELS IT BETTER TO ACT SILENTLY RATHER THAN RISK INFLAMING FURTHER HARDLINE MILITARY MEN BY ANNOUNCING PEN RELEASES.

*PEN
release*

5. (U) JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES PROBLEMS -----
A PERUVIAN WITH A TEMPORARY VISA TO STUDY MEDICINE, HAS BEEN ORDERED OUT OF THE COUNTRY BECAUSE HE IS A MEMBER OF THE JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES, ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS. THE EXPULSION ORDER WAS MADE BY THE DEPARTMENT OF MIGRATION IN CORDOBA. A LOCAL COURT REJECTED HIS APPEAL SAYING THAT BEFORE HE CAN GO TO THE COURTS HE MUST SEEK REDRESS THROUGH HIGHER AUTHORITY OF THE MIGRATIONS DEPARTMENT, AND THEN TO THE INTERIOR MINISTRY. IF THESE RECOURSES FAIL, THEN, THE COURT SAID, HIS CASE CAN BE SUBJECT TO JUDICIAL REVIEW.

CASTRO

*PFE
Q. Argentina*

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

(X) Release () Excise () Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: () In Part (X) In Full

() Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to

Date _____ Declassify on _____ Reason _____

UNCLASSIFIED

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